

## **FROM PRINT TO ELECTRONIC JOURNALS AND COORDINATED INSTITUTIONAL RETENTION OF PRINT**

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**Abstract:** As libraries migrate from print to electronic journal subscriptions, there should be some attention given to assessing print collections to determine availability and to establish retention and archiving needs. The NOAA Fisheries Library Consortium and NOAA Central Library have discussed archiving of print journals, and both groups have agreed that there should be a coordinated plan to address this issue. In order to move forward with this idea, I agreed to review the literature and compile points of consideration for the NFLC to review as a first step towards formulating a plan. The results of that review are presented.

**Keywords:** Journals management (Libraries); Serials management (Libraries); Journals (Periodicals); Electronic journals

### **Introduction**

Over the past decade and even earlier, there has been considerable discussion about archiving and retention of electronic journals. While this is still an ongoing point of discussion, many of the early concerns about continuity and stability of access have been addressed.

This discussion will focus primarily on how to evaluate and assess print journals in library collections and how to coordinate institutional retention of these resources to insure access over time. The NOAA Libraries and the NOAA Fisheries Library Consortium are still in the early phases of developing a cooperative collection development policy regarding this issue. NOAA and NMFS are moving toward institution-wide online subscriptions and initial discussions have focused on how to coordinate retention of at least one print subscription for archival purposes. This paper relates to the conference theme in that the reasons for moving to online only are often motivated by budget and space considerations.

## **Background**

The National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML) Library is 1 of 16 libraries in the NOAA Fisheries Library Consortium (NFLC) which is in turn part of the larger group of 31 NOAA Libraries. Individual NOAA Libraries are funded independently by the offices they report to, but there are a number of online resources provided nationally or regionally through various funding sources. There is interest in cooperative collection development particularly for resources of general interest across the various line offices of NOAA. In 2004, there was a project to identify core resources across the NOAA line offices. This project served as a basis for the NFLC when it began its assessment of library services which was completed in 2006. Both these projects focused on providing electronic access to NOAA researchers. Among the individual NOAA Libraries there has been a shift to electronic only journal subscriptions and many libraries have discontinued print subscriptions. The general trend has been to move toward universal access to resources and securing permanent funding for this access.

The NFLC and NOAA Central Library have discussed archiving of print journals, and both groups have agreed that there should be a coordinated plan to address this issue. In order to move forward with this idea, I agreed to review the literature and compile points of consideration for the NFLC to review as a first step towards formulating a plan.

On a local level my interest in this topic is more immediate. The NMML Library is running out of shelf space. Several options for additional shelving were considered, but were all ruled out earlier this year due to floor load restrictions. The options remaining are to reduce the collection either by weeding or by removing library materials to storage or to other library collections.

## **Review of Literature**

A review of the literature on the topic of journal archiving found a number of common considerations. I compiled a list of these considerations and the next step will be to incorporate these into a decision matrix to help identify journals to be retained and those that could be de-accessioned. Points of consideration include:

- Is a journal core to the collection?
- Is there alternate access?
- How complete is the alternate access?
- What is the source of the alternate access (local subscription, open-access, consortial...)?
- How is the alternate access funded?

These considerations can then be used to identify options and selection criteria for a decision matrix for retention of print journals and more broadly as a general tool for collection development:

Options / Alternatives:

- Retain in Main Collection
- Retain in Storage
- Move to another consortium library

- De-accession and offer to other libraries

Selection Criteria:

- Core status
- Availability of Online Access
- Online Quality
- Online Quantity
- Access from Alternate Sources
- Alternative Access Source

**Survey of NOAA Fisheries Library Consortium members:**

I surveyed NFLC member libraries on their individual retention and archiving practices. The responses received varied considerably. For current subscriptions, some NFLC libraries have discontinued all print subscriptions whenever electronic access is available and other libraries continue with both print and online. For older print journals, most indicated that retention is based on subject matter and then on space considerations. Several NFLC Libraries indicated that they were reluctant to rely on ongoing access to resources funded on a national or regional basis.

For the NMML Library collection, I completed an initial review of the journals in the collection. The information collected includes shelf space occupied, current subscription status, a ranking of core status within the collection (based on subject, usage, and publication history). I am in the process of completing a review of alternate access available for each of the titles identified. This information will then be used to develop a decision matrix which could be adapted for use by other NOAA Libraries in the future.

**Recommendations and Future Plans:**

1. Work with NFLC to update and add holdings to NOAALINC to assist with collection development and retention planning.
2. Develop a general NFLC policy for retention of print journals.
3. Develop a decision matrix that can be adapted for use by NFLC members.
4. Work in concert with NOAA Central Library to formulate a NOAA-wide plan.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, NOAA and NMFS libraries have made some progress towards establishing coordinated collection development goals for core resources. Forming a broad plan for retaining and maintaining institutional access to core journal resources will be part of that process.

## SELECTED RESOURCE LIST:

Bell, Steven. 2008. *In the transition zone: making the move from print to electronic journals*, PaLA College & Research Division, Technical Services Roundtable, Sept. 12, 2008. <http://stevenbell.info/pdfs/CRD0912handout.pdf>

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University of California Shared Print Resource Page  
<http://www.cdlib.org/inside/resources/sharedprint/>